(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) No such proposal is at present under consideration in this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of potable water in Andhra Pradesh

1393. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in each district of Andhra Pradesh where potable water has not yet been supplied;

(b) what is the number of villages proposed to be covered under the Seventh Five Year Plan in each district of the State where potable water will be supplied; and

(c) the time by when all the villages in Andhra Pradesh will be supplied potable water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the State Government.

Financial institutions for financing urban infrastructure development projects

1394. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are considering the establishment of a financial institution exclusively for financing the projects connected with urban infrastructure development and water supply and sanitation throughout the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These are being worked out.

Pan masala and zarda tobacco

1395. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that I.S.I. has issued its certification mark for 'pan masala' and 'zarda' tobacco;

(b) if so, what are the details of the standard; and

(c) whether the use of 'pan masala' and 'zarda' is considered hazardous for health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P SINGH DEO): (a) The I.S.I has not issued any licence for Pan Masala as there is no Indian Standard for the same. However, the I.S.I. has issued three licences for chewing tobacco, zarda.

(b) A note on the Indian Standard IS: 2344—1973 chewing tobacco, zarda flake type is given in the attached statement.

(c) The principal ingredients of pan masala are Betelnut, lime, coconut, catechu Cardamom, Saffron, aromatic spices and flavours. According to Government's present knowledge, these ingredients either singly or in combination are not likely to be harmful to human health. However, Inidan Council of Medical Research has undertaken a study of carcinogenecity

of different varieties of Betelnut. The Food Health Authorities of States/ local bodies draw samples of pan masala from the market and get them analysed. If the samples are found to contain any injurious ingredient, legal action is initiated under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

As regards Zarda, the Health Ministry is contemplating to make a labelling provisions under PFA Rules 1955 stating:—

"Chewing of tobacco is injurious to health".

Statement

Different brands of chewing tobacco are manufactured in this country varying in cost depending upon the leaf tobacco used, the processing employed and the admixture of various other ingredients. Amongst the brands of chewing tobacco available in the country, the ZARDA flake type is the most commonly used. The range of different brands of chewing tobacco produced in the country is very wide and it is felt necessary by ISI to lay down certain minimum standard requirements which are:

The chewing tobacco, ZARDA flake type, shall be prepared from mould-free tobacco lamina in the form of dry flakes. It may be coloured or non-coloured; perfumed or non-perfumed.

The material shall be free from any mould attack, when examined by the method prescribed in 5 of IS: 5643—1970.

The material shall not contain any substances injurious to health as covered by the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930. Any added substances shall be of a nature and purity which are suitable for use as a food additive or for use in medicinal or pharmaceutical products in proportions of proved harmlessness.

The material shall also comply with the requirements specified in Table below:

TABLE : *Requirements for Chewing Tobacco, Zarda Flake Type*

Characteristic	Limits	Method of Test (Ref. to Cl. no. of IS: 5643-1970)
(i) Loss on heating, percent by mass, Max	15·0	4
(ii) Nicotine (on dry basis) percent by mass	1·5 to 4·0	6
(iii) Total ash (on dry basis) percent by mass, Max	28·0	8
(iv) Acid insoluble ash (on dry basis), percent by mass, Max	4·0	9

In addition to this the ISI has also prescribed requirements for packing and marketing the Zarda. They are:

The material shall be packed in polyethylene, glass, or tin-plate containers, with a tamper-proof seal. These containers may then be packed in a bulk container as agreed to between the purchaser and the manufacturer.

The following particulars shall be marked on each container:

(a) Description of contents

(b) Name of the Manufacturer

(c) Brand

(d) Net weight of contents and

(e) Date of manufacture of date code.

Purchase of sub-standard seeds

1396. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the 'Times of India of 13th October, 1985 under the heading "Seed agencies, stocks may go abegging";

(b) if so, the names of the firms from which purchases of huge quantities of sub-standard seeds have been made;

(c) what is the estimated loss to the exchequer as a result thereof, and

(d) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the news item, it is mentioned that the Governments of Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam have purchased huge quantities of sub-standard seed from private firms. According to the State Governments of these four States, they have not purchased any sub standard seed. In fact, the Governments of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa have informed that they have not purchased any seed from private firms. However, the Government of Assam has informed that they have placed orders with Assam Seed Corporation and Assam State Co-operative Marketing and Consumers Federation for supply of one lakh quintals of certified wheat seed for the current Rabi season. The Government of Assam has also informed that these two agencies are to procure the required quantity of certified wheat seed from different sources as follows:—

National Seeds Corporation-20,000 qtls., UP Seed and Tarai Development Corporation-10,000 qtls., Haryana Seed Development Corporation-10,000 qtls. Besides these indents placed on the public agencies, the Assam State Co-operative Marketing and Consumers Federation has arranged production of 40,000 qtls. certified wheat seed in UP from registered growers and orders for 5,000 qtls. each have been placed with M/s. Pagia Enterprise, Tarai Beej Private Ltd., National Agro Seed Corporation and Assam Seed Supply Agency and Marketing Company. The Govt. of Assam have also stated that they have requested the UP State Seed Certification Agency to be very vigilant to ensure that no sub-standard seeds are certified by the agency.

(c) Since all the State Governments have confirmed that they have not purchased any sub-standard seeds there will not be any loss on this account.